(c) The target for providing telephone facility which includes fixed lines, WLL and Cellular mobile phones in the rural/urban area of Tamil Nadu during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given below:

Parameter	2003-04		2004-05	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
DELs	53000	252000	105000	443600

Fulfilment of obligation by private operators

928. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the license agreement with private operators stipulated that basic telecom service operators were to provide a minimum of 10 per cent of their total commitments as VPTs;

(b) if so, whether the private operators have fulfilled their obligations since the operation commenced;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the loss incurred by Government in this respect alongwith the action taken against the defaulting operators; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The six private basic telephone service operators, who were granted licences in 1997-98, were to provide a fix number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in their respective service area. The details of VPTs provided by the six private operators as on 31-10-2003 are given in the Statement (*See* below). Consequent to announcement of Unified Access Service Licence regime, the six private basic telephone service operators have migrated to Unified Access Service Licence regime in November 2003 and thereby the roll out obligations have changed to coverage of District Headquarters instead of provisioning of fixed number of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and VPTs. The Government has recovered liquidated damages to the tune of Rs. 53.75 crores from these six private basic telephone service operators for non-fulfilment of roll out obligations in terms of commencement of service as well as in provisioning of DELs and VPTs.

Statement

Provision of Village Public telephones (VPTs) by Private Licensees

Sl. No.	Licensee and Licensed Circle	Total No. of committed VPTs in 1st 3 years	No. of VPTs provided* by 31-10-2003
1.	M/s. Tata Teleservices Limited (Andhra Pradesh)	9635	1408
2.	M/s. Bharti Telenet Ltd. (Madhya Pradesh)	16500	611
3.	M/s. Shyam Telelink Ltd. (Rajasthan)	31834 (36727)**	3010
4.	M/s. Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. (Maharashtra)	25760	2643
5.	M/s. HFCL Infotel Ltd. (Punjab)	5442	879
6.	M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd. (Gujarat)	8635	4114
	TOTAL:	97806	12665

* As reported by the licensees.

** The total number of uncovered villages in Rajasthan Service Area is only 31834 as against the licensee's commitment of 36727.

STD/ISD/PCO in Assam

929. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCOs running in various districts of Assam at present;

(b) the number of booths proposed to be installed during the current year;

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose and the amount released, so far;

(d) whether the waiting list for PCOs is on the increase; and